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Services Division

Satellite Committee

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On 6 February, [REDACTED] S/TR talked on the impact of the Hungarian Revolution on Eastern European Transportation. The recent Hungarian uprising had a severe impact on Eastern European transportation. Hungarian internal and international traffic were at a virtual standstill from October 24 to November 14, and insufficient transportation was an obstacle to economic recovery through the entire month of November. The Hungarian railroad system (MAV), which normally carries 84 percent of the country's freight traffic, was apparently meeting traffic demand in December although reportedly carrying only one-fourth of the normal seasonal volume of traffic. The present level of freight traffic is not known, but it is believed to be well below the capability of the transportation system. Given the necessary fuel supplies, it is doubtful that Hungarian transportation will hamper recovery at least until pre-revolutionary production goals are reached.

In addition to causing internal transportation difficulties, the Hungarian Revolution upset the normal pattern of inter-Satellite traffic. Closing of the Danube River to transit traffic between October 27 and November 14 deprived Eastern Europe of its most important commercial river. Closure of MAV to transit traffic from October 24 to December 6 eliminated the most expeditious route in Eastern Europe for north-south rail shipments as well as for rail shipments between the USSR and Austria and Yugoslavia. North-south rail shipments were temporarily routed through Austria and Yugoslavia, and USSR-Yugoslav rail shipments were temporarily routed through Rumania. This traffic however, did not approach the normal level, and there are indications of shortages in several of the Satellite countries resulting from the halting of transit through Hungary. Transit traffic by both rail and river have been resumed. In an effort to relieve the Hungarian railroad system, however, the USSR has agreed to route traffic to Austria and Yugoslavia through Czechoslovakia and Rumania, respectively, during the first quarter of 1957.

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On 13 February [REDACTED] of A/P will discuss his research on the Soviet Bloc's redefection and repatriation campaign.

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